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The Canadian INDIA TIMES

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Canadian companies offer help

New Delhi, [UNI] - Canadian companies manufacturing solar power turbines and the wind-mill turbines are keen on collaborating with India for the manufacture of these turbines for export to South-East Asian countries.

DAF Indal Limited and Solcan Ltd., two leading Canadian companies have developed windmill and solar turbines using intermediate technology most suited to India. Though the present cost of setting up these units is slightly higher than that of diesel units, in the long run the former could be far more economical as India is currently looking for alternative sources of energy especially solar energy.

The Indian Energy Commission is very keen to set up small solar units capable of meeting the power requirements of the household units and the villages. The technology offered by Canadian companies appears to be suitable. According to R.A. Douglas of DAF Indal Limited his company was interested in setting up a unit here as India had all the requisites for manufacturing windmill turbines. Both countries could benefit as there was a growing demand for these turbines in the South East Asian markets. He said that his company was well versed in FERA regulations and would not hesitate to collaborate with an Indian party.

Rajiv to contest from Amethi

By Our Correspondent

New Delhi: Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister Gandhi's son, would ultimately contest the by-elections to the Lok Sabha from Amethi Constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

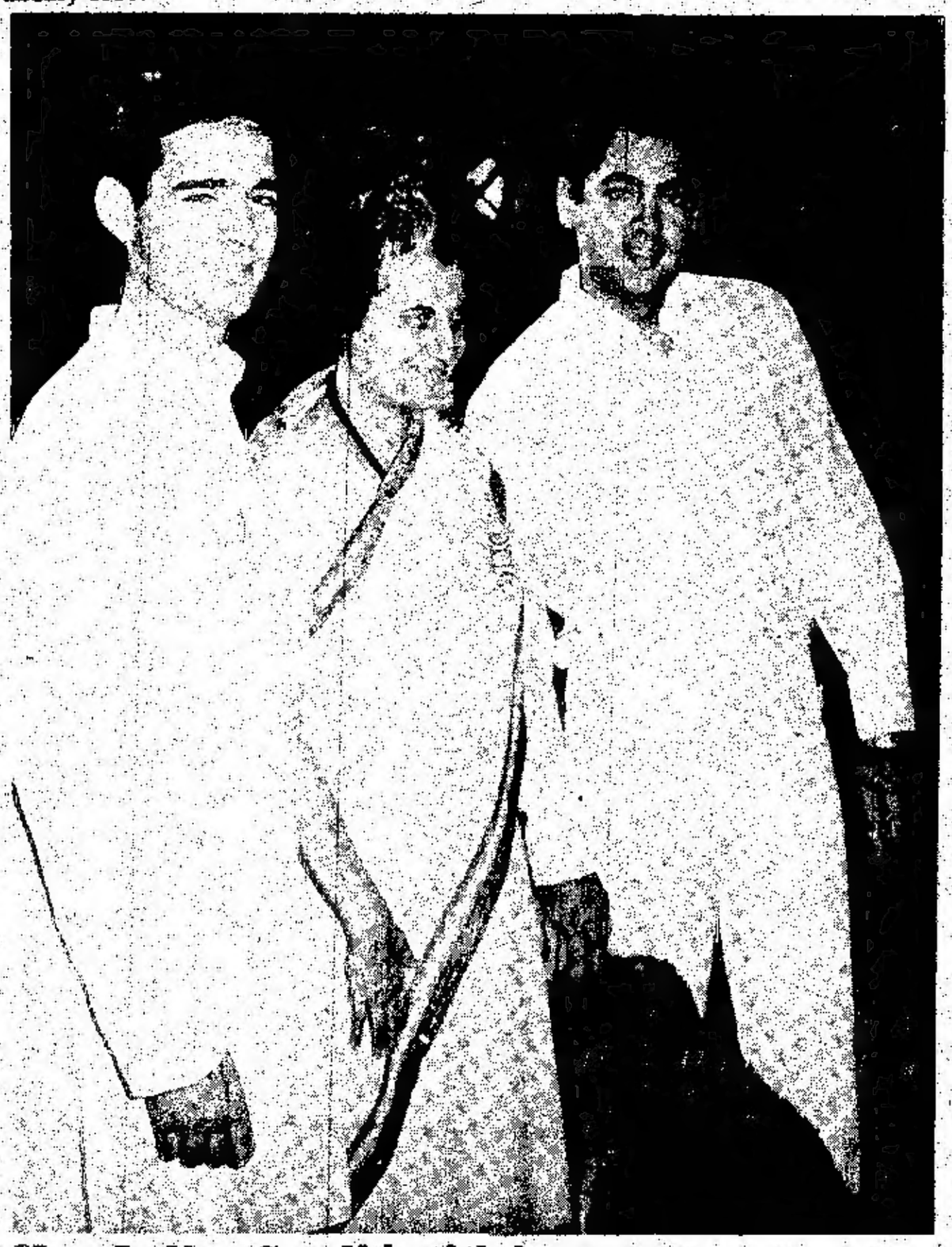
The Amethi seat fell vacant after the death of Sanjay Gandhi, younger brother of Rajiv. Sanjay Gandhi was defeated in 1977 in the same constituency but was returned in January 1980.

Rajiv would resign as pilot of the Indian Airlines which is a government job, the airline being an autonomous public sector undertaking.

By-elections in the seven parliamentary and 22 assembly constituencies are slated for the middle of June. They cover the four states of Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The Parliamentary constituencies are: Cuttack (Orissa), Garhwal, Bareilly, Amethi, Mirzapur and Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh), Serampore (West Bengal).

The Assembly constituencies are: Dhanaha, Parsa, Bakhtiarpur, Sandesh, Hisua and Giridih (Bihar), Bilaspur, Bisauli, Shahjahanpur, Tindwari, Lakshmipur Jahanabad, Patiali and Sikandrarao (Uttar Pradesh) Darjeeling, Kumarganj, Kharba, Suzapur, Jadavpur, Dum Dum, Manickotola and Midnapore (West Bengal).



Mrs. Indira Gandhi with her sons Sanjay (left) and Rajiv (right).

American banks show interest in India

New Delhi, [UNI] - An American subsidiary of the giant National Westminister Bank Group is likely to come to India in a big way to provide the much-needed finance for development projects in the country.

The Chairman of the National Bank of North America, John H. Vogel, arrived here on a study tour to assess business opportunities in India in consultation with leading Indian bankers.

An Indian national daily, "Financial Express," considers Mr. Vogel's visit significant in the light of the two major Euro-dollar loans negotiated by India recently. One is a 680-million dollar loan for the alumina complex in Orissa and the other is the 200-million dollar loan for oil exploration programmes undertaken by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC).

The National Westminister Bank Group, London, which is the largest banking group in the world with assets totalling 80 billion dollars, was associated with the loan transaction with ONGC. The National Bank of North America, with its head office in New York, is a 100 per cent subsidiary of this group.

Mr. Vogel said his bank would prefer to work in close collaboration with Indian banks. During his stay in India, he will meet the chief executives of some of the nationalised banks as well as some leading industrialists in Delhi and Bombay. Later, a follow-up team may be coming to meet the smaller banks. Eventually, the National Bank of America plans to set up its own branch in India.

Islamic Centre for Srinagar

Srinagar, [UNI] - The 15th Centenary Hijra Celebration Committee at a meeting recently decided to set up an Islamic Centre here in the north Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Committee also decided to organise an exhibition, a seminar, concerts and cultural programmes as part of the celebrations. A volume on the history and heritage of Islam in Kashmir will also be brought out by the Committee. The volume will be published in Urdu and other regional languages.

Czechs seek collaboration

New Delhi, [UNI] - Czechoslovakia has sought India's technical know-how and collaboration in the reconstruction of petrochemical complex and refineries in Iraq. Two refineries, in Basra and Salahuddin, are to be rebuilt.

Long way to women's equality

New Delhi, [UNI] - When it comes to contesting an election, Indian women are ahead of their counterparts in countries like Ethopia, Iraq and Egypt, where they have no representation. But they have to go a long way to compete with the women of the East European bloc.

In India, the woman's status is still a traditional one; her work outside the household is almost negligible. While in advanced industrialised countries, the female work participation rate ranges from 30 to 45 per cent, in India it is just 18.2 per cent.

Also, economic participation in India is largely influenced by traditional values and caste plays an important role. While women belonging to intermediary castes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes associate themselves with economic activity, the cultivator's wife who belongs to the upper caste will generally retire into seclusion, avoiding manual work outside the household. This taboo has reduced several women to poverty.

The National Conference in Women's Studies, which concluded in Bombay recently, gave a new direction to the growing interest in women's problems. About 400 women and men assembled in Bombay and exchanged views on their observations of women's problems and chalked out future programmes.

Advice to Muslims

Bombay, [UNI] - Film star Dilip Kumar has urged the Indian muslim youth not to depend on political leaders to solve their problems. "Politicians like to wear new caps and new shoes and then fling them at one another", he said.

Dilip Kumar was inaugurating the Nagpada unit of the All-India Milli Secretariat at Mastan Talab here.

He lamented that the Muslim youth was left behind in all fields of life.

Complimenting the people who had come under the leadership of Haji Mastan, Dilip Kumar said: there were economic and educational problems that had to be looked into and Haji Mastan was making every effort in this regard.

Haji Mastan, who is the president of the Milli, said he would initiate programmes to uplift the muslim community without seeking the help of any government agency.

Infant mortality still high

New Delhi, [UNI] - Infant and child mortality is fairly high in India. Ten to twenty per cent of these deaths are attributed to diarrhoeal diseases. The problem has been recognised as endemic and a nation-wide concern is being expressed over the high incidence of infant deaths.

As many as 122 infants of every thousand live births die in a year. Two-thirds of the deaths occur within the first month itself. Of the remaining one-third of infants die within the first year.

Diarrhoea dysentry and gastroenteritis in infants and pre-school-children in the age group of 0-5 are frequently occurring in the country. The diseases are common in the months of summer -- from April to October -- and are spread all over the country.

More than 150 million cases of diarrhoea dysentery and related diseases are estimated to be occurring in the country every year.

Kenya Asians exploit teachers

Nairobi, [UNI] - Although the latest directive in force enjoins that no Indian can be recruited from India by any employer in Kenya without the consent of the Indian High Commission based in Nairobi, some unscrupulous employers have devised a method to by-pass this directive in order to perpetuate exploitation of Indian employees.

A three-man team is said to be currently on a private tour of India to seduce young graduate teachers to join Asian-owned private schools in Kenya. The need has arisen as a result of the Kenya government's threat to close down all such private schools which do not provide services to students satisfactorily.

The recruitment drive has been sponsored by a handful of Asians who are owning chains of secondary schools in this country. The team has been provided with sponsorship declaration forms, a copy of which is required to be issued to a candidate found suitable for the teaching post. Selected candidates will be provided with free air passage along with sponsorship forms for entry into Kenya as visitors.

The employers claim to have close connections with high-ranking officials for acquisition of work permits.

The exploitation of Indian teachers by Asians in Kenya has been going on for years. But this matter has come to light only recently. According to reliable information, two headmasters of Asian-owned secondary schools committed suicide when they found themselves in miserable conditions. The employers usually pocket the passports of their Indian employees to prevent their escape from their clutches.

But one such victim, S.K. Monga, showed courage and went a long way from D.N. Handa secondary school, Naivasha, to the Indian High Commission, to lodge his complaint against the Asian employer. He had been removed from job without any reason after one year's service. His house was locked up by the employer while his belongings were lying inside. He had not been paid his arrears.

In his complaint he narrated his story and said he wanted to return to India but he had no money, and that his employer had not cleared his arrears.

Mr. Monga produced a copy of the sponsorship form given to him by his employer before he was called in here as a visitor. The employer in his sponsorship form claimed that his annual income was 500,000 shillings and he had a deposit of 50,000 pounds with a bank in Nairobi.

Concern over W.Asia

New Delhi, [UNI] - India and Bahrain expressed concern over the West Asian situation observing that it posed "the most dangerous threat to international peace and security".

Speaking at the presidential banquet in honour of the visiting Amir of Bahrain, both President Sanjiva Reddy and Shaikh Isa Bin Sulman al Khalifa, stressed the need for an immediate solution to the West Asian problem agreeing that non-alignment was the best solution for peace in the area.

Mr. Reddy said India was deeply perturbed over the great-power presence in the Indian Ocean and the Amir said that the West Asian situation had "direct repercussions on the economic and political stability of the world."

Group wedding, a boon

Nasik [Maharashtra], [UNI]- At a group wedding here some brides were pregnant and some others mothers, while many bridegrooms had been sterilised years ago.

Twenty-three such couples, all of them belonging to Indian tribes lagging behind in education and progress in society, were united in wedlock at Rakshabhavan village in Nasik district recently.

The facts were wellknown, so no questions were asked and no eyebrows raised. Poverty had converted convenience into custom.

The tribal custom allows a young boy and a girl to live like husband and wife for years together till they can raise enough funds to solemnise their marriage.

The mass wedding was part of an effort by social worker Haribhau Mahale to help the tribals curtail marriage expenses and save young couples from being bonded to moneylenders always willing to offer them loans at exhorbitant interest. The ritual of mass marriage cost each couple no more than Rs 300. This way they could afford to hire a brass band and a record-player with loudspeakers for the ceremony. They could also throw a simple feast for the entire population comprising about 300 people and other invitees who included Tribal Commissioner S. Tinaikar, Conservator of Forests, S. D. Sathe, noted Marathi poet Kusumraj and Marxist Legislative Assembly Member Jiva Pana Gawit.

The gathering lustily greeted an announcement by Forests Development Corporation Regional Manager D.A. Marballi that each couple would receive a wedding gift of one sapling each of mango, cashewnut, guava and jack fruit.

The religious part of the simple ceremony included recital of some hymns after the 23 women were led to the alter in front of the waiting bridegrooms in a pandal.

The newly-weds then broke into traditional dances the village elders joining them.

Contrary to popular belief, no adivasi drank liquor at the ceremony, which is a major achievement and one that would improve the lifestyle of the adivasis.

The Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, being received by the President of Cyprus, Spyro Kyprianou, on her arrival at Larnaca Airport on her way to Geneva.

Mrs. Gandhi left Delhi by an Indian Airline Boeing 707 on May 5 on a visit to Switzerland, Kuwait and the UAE.

UNITED NATIONS BODY CURTAILS AID TO INDIA

New Delhi, [UNI] - The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has reportedly decided to curtail its aid to India.

Informed sources said the UNFPA, which had earlier agreed to offer India 100 million dollars for the five-year period ending March 1986, will now give only 80 million dollars.

Sheikh refut... Indira's cha...

Srinagar, [UNI] - Sheikh Abdullah, Chief Minister of the predominantly Muslim populated northern border State of Jammu and Kashmir, waging an incessant tirade against the Congress (I) ruling party at the Centre has n... gress ... sed t... Hindu ... give c... ister I... that th... ities ... State.

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Rao in Paki...

New Delhi, [UNI] - India's Foreign Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, will visit Islamabad in the first week of June for talks with Pakistani leaders, including his counterpart, Agha Shahi. This was disclosed by Mr. Rao at the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of his Ministry here.

Mr. Rao said his visit was aimed at continuing India's commitment to normalize and nurture good neighbourly relations with Pakistan. Mr. Rao told the Committee that India wou... voic... infl... arm... He ... of ... Indi... had ... trat... said ... indu... det... stab... was ... to w... trie... ces ... res... sub...

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Sheikh refutes Indira's charge

Srinagar, [UNI] - Sheikh Abdullah, Chief Minister of the predominantly Muslim populated northern border State of Jammu and Kashmir, waging an incessant tirade against the Congress (I) ruling party at the Centre has now accused the Congress (I) of having organised the recent thefts of Hindu temple idols here to give credence to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's charge that the non-muslim minorities are not safe in the State.

Inaugurating a private chemical industrial unit at Zainkot near here, Sheikh Abdullah alleged that the thefts were aimed at creating communal discord in the State to destabilise and overthrow the State Government of the National Conference party.

The Chief Minister charged that instead of helping to strengthen peace and tranquility, the atmosphere was being surcharged with tension to suit vested interests of the central ruling Congress party.

Conduct code planned

New Delhi, [UNI] - A code of conduct that would bind the Indian political parties not to support any communal movement or propaganda will soon be proposed at an all-party meeting to be convened by the Centre.

This announcement was made by the Union Home Minister, Zail Singh, at the first meeting of the Committee on Communal Harmony of the National Integration Council here.

Mr. Singh said although there was a welcome downward trend in the communal incidents in the country, there was no room for complacency.

India was one of the few countries where the minorities were living in an atmosphere of peace and security, Mr. Singh said.

A feeling persisted among the minorities that they were being left out of the national mainstream. The panel on minorities constituted recently was expected to recommend steps to improve their economic lot, he said.

Tax concessions for overseas Indians sought

New Delhi, [UNI] - The Arab Indian Muslim Association in Dubai has urged the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to provide incentives and tax concessions for Indians abroad to invest their savings in India.

The Association, in an eight-page memorandum submitted to Mrs. Gandhi during her visit to United Arabemirates, has asked for a review of the "difficult" immigration formalities for recruitment of labour to the Gulf and other regions.

The memorandum urges the Prime Minister to create a separate ministry of immigration and overseas Indians to attend speedily to their problems. The Ministry should look after the interests of Indians abroad and "if necessary amend various relevant laws so that Indians abroad could feel happy and secure".

Stating that the present Indian tax laws hit them hard, the Association has suggested that no tax should be levied on income earned by Indians from their employment aborad. To encourage investment, Indians abroad should be given exemption from wealth tax.

Regulating emigration

New Delhi, [UNI] - An Emigration Bill to regulate the flow of Indian labour to the Gulf countries so as to prevent its exploitation by the recruiting agencies would be introduced by the Indian Government in the next session of Parliament in August this year.

Over the past few years, it has been observed that some spurious agencies in India were extorting large sums of money from job seekers on the promise of finding them jobs in the Gulf countries. But it was found that the Indian workers were being lured on false promises.

The matter was discussed during the Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi's recent tour of Gulf countries.

Rao in Pakistan

New Delhi, [UNI] - India's Foreign Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, will visit Islamabad in the first week of June for talks with Pakistani leaders, including his counterpart, Agha Shahi. This was disclosed by Mr. Rao at the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of his Ministry here.

Mr. Rao said his visit was aimed at continuing India's commitment to normalize and nurture good neighbourly relations with Pakistan. Mr. Rao told the Committee that India would, however, continue to voice her concern over the inflow of sophisticated U.S. arms into Pakistan.

He informed the members of the discussions which Indian representatives have had with the U.S. Administration in this regard. He said India believed that induction of such arms was detrimental to peace and stability in the region. It was India's duty, therefore, to warn the concerned countries about the consequences of any action that may result in an arms race in the sub-continent.

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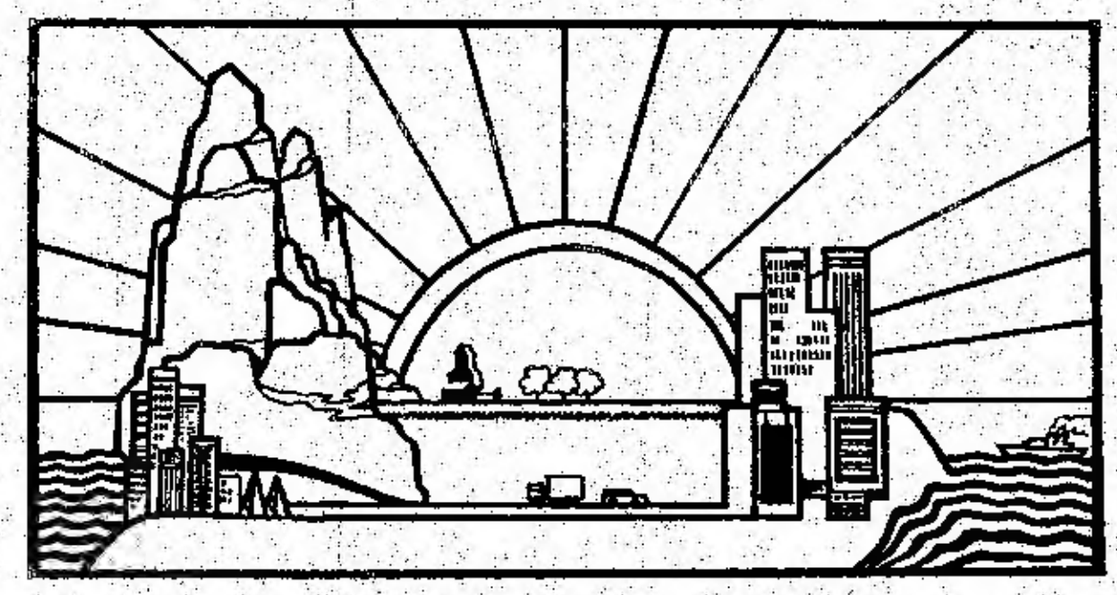

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RAJIV

After months of speculation, Rajiv Gandhi has decided to formally enter the political arena following the footsteps of his younger brother. Political pundits are predicting without much of a hesitation that, if successful at the polls, he would one day step into his mother's shoes.

According to reports, though not so flamboyant as his late brother Sanjay, Rajiv is a good organizer as was demonstrated not long ago by co ordinating a Kisan rally for Mrs. Gandhi. Also he is considered to be less mercurial and erratic than Sanjay.

What does this mean for Indian politics and the Indian nation - Rajiv as the next Raja. For better or for worse, he will have a stabilising influence on the nation at a time when Mrs. Gandhi is on her way to attaining senior citizen status. Probably Rajiv could be credited with a better judgement than his brother and that certainly is a comforting thought.

On the negative side is the dynasty factor. Is it absolutely essential that to shine in Indian politics one has to be the progeny of a political luminary? Is that what democracy is all about?

Regarding his views on politics, economy and society, very little is known to the public. Having had the experience of growing up in the Nehru family, one expects that his views on these will not be draconian.

We wish Rajiv well and hope he will do a super job.

Letters

Fifth Guru

Dr. S.S. Sodhi's article on Guru Govind Singh (Canadian India Times, dated 6 April, 1981) is both enlightening and thought provoking.

One of the great teaching to all humanity from Guru Govind singh is that of the positive spiritualism. In the general sense, one would picture spiritualism as a negation or escapism from the harsh realities of life, i.e. turning away from the oppression of the powerful. This is accepting defeat

This weakness of human character was totally rejected by the Fifth Guru, who through his life and sacrifices, taught people that the oppressor of freedom in human life and society, however powerful that might be, should be opposed, resisted, and be ultimately eliminated with more power and bravery.

P.B. Mukhopadhyay, Montreal

Censure motion concludes Lok Sabha

By George Mathew

New Delhi: The Budget session of the Lok Sabha concluded last month after a marathon discussion on a non-confidence motion moved by a combined Opposition.

The Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, was away in Geneva as her government faced the censure motion which was rejected after an 11-hour debate during which the Opposition leaders maintained that the present government deserved to be "thrown out lock, stock and barrel" for its failures all-round during it 16-month rule.

With senior parliamentarians and eloquent speakers on its side, the Opposition made out their case with thunder, sarcasm and statistics giving a fitting finale to the session. The No-confidence motion moved by George Fernandez, Lok Dal leader and a former Minister under Janata rule, said: "This House expresses its lack of confidence in the Council of Ministers."

But for a few speakers, the ruling Congress (I) leaders lacked parliamentary skill in handling the Opposition charges. Instead of disproving the allegations, they dwelt on re-affirming their faith in their leader, Indira Gandhi, and redicuting the Opposition with malice. They referred to the "infight" during the Janata Rule and the downfall of the government with too many leaders and no followers. The No-confidence move stemmed from frustration of the Opposition parties, they alleged.

The rejection of the censure motion was a foregone conclusion since the ruling party commanded a two-third majority.

In his hour-long speech moving the motion, George Fernandez said his motion reflected the feeling of the entire nation. He referred to the unfulfilled election promises of the Congress (I), communal violence, atrocities on Harijans, Adivasis and Minorities, rise in prices, depletion in the foreign exchange reserve and the Rs 700 crores being wasted on Asiad 1983.

Madhu Dandavate, a former Janata Minister, said the present government had ruined the economy and destroyed democratic norms, the law and order situation has deteriorated and the rate of inflation had gone up. He quoted figures related to the Janata rule to illustrate his point. By "black bonds" the government was encouraging black money and by the threat of an impending war it was creating a war phychosis to distract the attention of the people.

The Government's policies and Mrs. Gandhi's leadership were strongly defended by the Home Minister, Zail Singh. With his characteristic humour, Hindi cuplets and witty anecdotes, he led the House to laughter. He made counter allegations on the Opposition to bring home his view that the Opposition was responsible for the present situation in the country.

He claimed that the government was strong under Mrs. Gandhi's leadership. The motive of the Opposition to move the censure motion when Mrs. Gandhi was away abroad was intended to frustrate her. There was nothing new in the Opposition charge and all the points were made by it during the Budget debate since February last.

Jagjivan Ram, Congress (U) and former Minister, said that Mrs. Gandhi was returned to power by a massive mandate by the people. She was still capable of delivering the goods. But she belied the expectations of the people.

He asked those on the treasury benches to search their heart, and say whether the situation in the country showed any sign of improvement. He referred to the plight of the poor, the atrocities on the Harijans and the rising prices. In the previous government Mrs. Gandhi had colleagues but in the present Cabinet she had only followers, he said.

Atal Behari Vajpayee, BJP and former Minister, referred to large-scale communal violence resulting in deaths, law and order problems, situation in Assam, Manipur and Bihar involving the loss of life of hundreds of people. Judges were being treated as casual labour. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press were under threat. The Air India plane sabotage and cry of "foreign hand" were all meant to bring back "emergency rule" in the country.

Mr. Dantavate said for everything including the increase in the population, the former Janata party was being blamed and not being satisfied the government may even find "foreign hand" in the population increase.

R. Venkataraman, Finance Minister, replied to the Opposition charges on behalf of the government in the absence of the leader of the House, Mrs. Gandhi.

He claimed that the government had brought about a marked change in the economy after his party was returned to power, "we inherited an economy which was in a state of delirium, he said. He refuted the charges made by George Fernandez in his opening address while moving the motion.

Kuwait money for projects

New Delhi, [UNI] - Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi's visit to Kuwait has opened up distinct possibilities of India obtaining financial support for the Thal-Vaishet fertiliser project which has been facing uncertainties following the withdrawal of World Bank credit for the same.

At official level talks in Kuwait, India and Kuwait have agreed to activate the Joint Economic Commission, a meeting of which is to be convened soon.

What is of more significance to India is the Kuwaiti assurance that the two countries would further discuss the details and mode of payment by Kuwait in foreign exchange relating to the financing of the Thal-Vaishet fertiliser project in the Western state of Maharashtra.

At meetings which Mrs. Gandhi had in Kuwait, both she and the Amir of Kuwait expressed general agreement that India and Kuwait should institutionalise their growing economic, technical and commercial co-operation.

Kuwait has agreed to finance new projects in India. In this connection, it was decided that high-level teams of the two sides should meet shortly to finalise the details of new projects and their financing.

The Kuwaiti side pointed out that there were delays in supplies of iron and steel and they wanted more timber from India. The Indian side referred to the difficulty regarding supply of timber, but assured the Kuwaiti side that supplies of iron and steel would be expedited in future.

The two sides also discussed the scope offered by the wide financial market in Kuwait. While Kuwait felt that the balance of trade between the two countries was in favour of India, the Indian side said this would be corrected by the oil supplies to India.

The Indian side also drew attention to the liberalisation of the policy for investments in India.

Meanwhile, Kuwait has announced a 62.5 million dollar loan to India for the first stage of the Anpara thermal power project in northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Airport gadgets introduced

AIRPORT GADGETS

New Delhi, [UNI] - Having introduced the "green channel" system at the Delhi international airport (providing for the honour system for incoming air passengers freely to walk through with their baggage after a declaration that they carry no duitable goods), the authorities are providing, by way of abundant caution a sufficient number of sophisticated safety gadgets like X-ray baggage inspection equipment from foreign countries. As many as 32 such units are being purchased.

Metal detectors are also being purchased for use in the international airports to prevent gun-carrying passengers getting into planes with sinister designs.

Sterilizatio married life

Bombay, [UNI] - Misconceptions about the impact of sterilization have thrown many a married life on the rocks, according to some studies.

The study reports, presented to the Third National Conference on Sexology held at Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), recently, said "the results do not conform with logic". More than three-fourths of the over 5,000 men from Gohad village in the state covered by the study felt that the operation had affected their vigour and masculinity.

The study noted that in almost all cases, the frequency of intercourse had increased after the operation. It had also been found that the scientific basis of the operation had been explained to a "very meagre" percentage of the men who had undergone vasectomy. They had showed fewer psychological symptoms.

The conference was conducted by Bombay's Vatsayana Institute of Sexology in collaboration with the Indian Medical Association's Jabalpur branch.

Dr. Alok Vajpayee in his paper, pointed out that the people with misconceptions not only puzzled themselves but also tried to prevent others from undergoing vasectomy, posing hurdles to the family planning programme. He, therefore,

Muslim popula second larges

New Delhi, [UNI] - India has the second largest Muslim population in the world, according to the World Muslim Gazetter.

The Gazetter, published by the Jeddah-based Motamar Alam-i-Islam quoting 1975 statistics, indicates that out of the total 890 million Muslims all over the globe constituting 23 per cent of the world population, 150 million Muslims were in India.

The survey, conducted in 172 countries, shows that Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, the

Crisis in Tea

Cochin, [UNI] - The tea industry in the south Indian state of Kerala is passing through a "grave crisis" due to steep increase in the cost of production and an equally steep fall in prices.

For quite some time, tea was being sold at Rs 2 a kilogramme less than the cost production, and if this situation continues, many planters would be forced to sell their estates.

Kerala accounts for 96,150 hectares of tea plantations

Joint ventu

New Delhi, [UNI] - As many as 24 offers have been received by the Indian companies from Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana for setting up joint ventures there.

This follows an 18-day visi

Sterilization affects married life

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The study noted that in almost all cases, the frequency of interrourse had increased after the operation. It had also been found that the scientific basis of the operation had been explained to a "very meagre" percentage of the men who had undergone vasectomy. They had showed fewer psychological symptoms.

The conference was conducted by Bombay's Vatsayana Institute of Sexology in collaboration with the Indian Medical Association's Jabalpur branch.

Dr. Alok Vajpayee in his paper, pointed out that the people with misconceptions not only puzzled themselves but also tried to prevent others from undergoing vasectomy, posing hurdles to the family planning programme. He, therefore, called for a concerted campaign to remove these misconceptions.

Dr. C.L. Jhaveri sought to dispel the common impression that sterilization among women often led to a higher incidence of extra-marital relations by women.

Quoting studies, he said, "normal sex indulgence does not lead to either uterus cancer or breast cancer".

Pointing out that an increasing number of women had now undergone hysterectomy - removal of the uterus - Dr. Jhaveri said the couple in such cases could be assured that "there is no need to worry about their sex in future".

Dr. Benu Mukerjee said in her paper that her recent lecture at an English-medium high school showed that more than half the adolescent girls she talked with had either no knowledge or wrong information about physical, mental and pubertal growth of girls during adolescence.

The doctor, who was asked to speak on "all about growing up", said very few girls acquired knowledge from their parents.

A number of participants also suggested that sex education be made compulsory at the highschool level to help adolescents develop a scientific attitude towards male-female relationships.

Muslim population second largest

New Delhi, [UNI] - India has the second largest Muslim population in the world, according to the World Muslim Gazetter.

The Gazetter, published by the Jeddah-based Motamar Alam-i-Islam quoting 1975 statistics, indicates that out of the total 890 million Muslims all over the globe constituting 23 per cent of the world population, 150 million Muslims were in India.

The survey, conducted in 172 countries, shows that Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, the Sovier Union and Nigeria had more than 50 million Muslims.

Indonesia tops the list with more than 140 million Muslims while Bangladesh and Pakistan with 76 million and 75 million muslims are placed third and fourth respectively.

The survey says the population increase in most of the Muslim countries is more than two per cent a year. Many Muslim countries have not accepted the family planning programme as they consider it against Islamic tenets.

Crisis in Tea industry

Cochin, [UNI] - The tea industry in the south Indian state of Kerala is passing through a "grave crisis" due to steep increase in the cost of production and an equally steep fall in prices.

For quite some time, tea was being sold at Rs. 2 a kilogramme less than the cost production, and if this situation continues, many planters would be forced to sell their estates.

Kerala accounts for 36,150 hectares of tea plantations which is 48.5 per cent of the South Indian acreage and 9.8 per cent of the all-India acreage. It provides employment to about 100,000 workers.

M.S. Parikh, Chairman of the Association of Planters of Kerala (APK) told newsmen that the estates were finding it difficult to meet even the day-to-day expenses. Several APK members had not been able to pay the arrears of wages due on April 1 last.

Joint ventures in Africa

New Delhi, [UNI] - As many as 24 offers have been received by the Indian companies from Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana for setting up joint ventures there.

This follows an 18-day visit by an Indian Industrial delegation to the three countries in March. The offers are expected to result in 2500 million dollars worth of established joint ventures within the next three years.

BJP moving south

By George Mathew

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the splinter Jana Sangh group of the erstwhile united Janata Party, has cast its net wide into South India with success.

The BJP's choice of Cochin for its National Council Meet in April in the context of the CPM-RSS clashes for supremacy in Kerala is significant. Four months ago the BJP national convention in Bombay, at a time when opposition to Mrs. Gandhi was growing in that State, was a big draw. The party enlisted the support of prominent citizens like M.C. Chagla in Bombay.

The BJP is considered as a "north-India party" with its strong base in the Hindi heartland. It has the largest following in Maharashtra and Gujarat. Unlike the Congress (I) which has stabilised itself as a one-person party or at best a one-family party, the BJP is growing as a broad-based party with a band of leadership at the national, state and district levels. While there is all praise for its cadre discipline, its leadership is not stamped as corrupt. Its main stigma is its RSS connection.

The Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) claims to be a cultural organisation. Its efforts to shed its "Hindu fanaticism" and to establish its faith in secularism have been viewed with suspicion. The BJP will be reduced to a skeleton if it sheds its cadre-based RSS connection.

There are only two political parties in India today which have the cadre, discipline and loyalty to grow into a viable alternative to the Congress (I), viz the Communist Party Marxists (CPM) and the BJP. The former is Bengal-based and the latter North India based which are handicaps for their uniform growth throughout the country on a national basis. The CPM-RSS clashes in Kerala stems from the political ambition of the BJP.

The BJP did not even get one seat in the last Assembly or Lok Sabha elections in Kerala. Yet it has grown as a party to be reckoned with in Kerala today. Among those who join the BJP are Marxists belonging to the minority communities or weaker sections, who are offered both political and physical support by the BJP. Among the party's sympathisers are intellectuals who also belong to the Christian community. There are also the bystanders who seek physical help from the RSS-BJP combine against oppression from the Marxists.

Addressing the National Convention at Cochin, the BJP President, A.B. Vajpayee, paid glowing tributes to Kerala's religious leaders like Juhanon Mar Thoma, Shankaracharya and Mannath Padmanabhan in an obvious attempt to woo the minority communities.

The state was known for its great traditions of tolerance and harmony, but has become saturated with intolerance today. What was happening in Kerala was a "deliberate design to create terror" at the connivance if not collusion of the powers that be, he said.

He dwelt in detail the achievements during the Janata rule with particular reference to the law and order situation, price stability, and foreign policy.

He called for the establishment of a "Gandhian society" based on harmony and synthesis among differing groups and sections in the country. "The basis of this harmony must be justice", he said.

Mr. Vajpayee said his party rejected both class war and caste war. "A democratic system cannot be based on class or caste confrontation", he added.

A.B. Vajpal

Prominent among the guest speakers were Dr. V.V. John, an eminent educationist and former Vice Chancellor of the Jodhpur University.

Dr. John paid rich tributes to the BJP as a party of "learning and education". The basis of democracy should be the rule of law, freedom of information and the right to change a government without violence, he added.

Dr. John said he accepted the invitation to address the convention as he had seen the BJP "grow in terms of social and political consciousness".

"You are a party that has been learning and growing in terms of social and political consciousness. To you democracy, socialism, and secularism are not windy slogans. There is no ambiguity in your commitment to democratic values of Ghandian socialism and to secularism", Dr. John said.

Another guest speaker was the popular journalist-politician "Cho" Ramaswamy of Tamil Nadu. The BJP's eye in next cast on Tamil Nadu, it would appear.

Ram Jethmalani, BJP Vice President, said: "Pragmatic political sense demands BJP convincing members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes that their interests were safe in the hands of the BJP which was led by a leader like Mr. Vajpayee".

He said India belonged to Jews, Christians and Muslims as much as to millions of Hindus.

The BJP national executive decided to demand the resignation of the Marxist Home Minister, T.K. Ramakrishnan, for his alleged failure to check political killings and curb lawlessness.

Between January and March this year there have been 46 political murders in Kerala, almost evenly divideдc between the CPM and the RSS.

The BJP has made a debut in Kerala. Will it be able to contain the Marxist influence in the state? The party may use its base in Kerala to grow Southward.

When saints blushed

Raipur [Madhya Pradesh], [UNI] - Forty dancing girls of this town in Central India were called by the district officers some days ago and promised help if only they would start their life anew in virtue. The officers were trying to wean the dancing girls from the vice, but they were made to blush.

The discussions were risque and the suggestions daring. Some of the questions reduced the officers to embarrassed silence.

"We are not prostitutes," the girls protested vehemently at the outset. "We are promoters of art."

According to one of the officers, the girls "posed all kinds of queries, some of them damn embarrassing."

A girl wanted to know how much they would earn after being trained in craft under the National Training for Rural Youth Employment Programme.

At least one hundred rupees a month, an officer replied. "That is contemptible," blurted the girl. "Some of us are earning about two hundred rupees a day".

The girls said one hundred rupees would not meet their expense on "powder and lipstick."

One woman said if the officers were really solicitous one of them should marry her. Another suggestion was that the Government should take over and run prostitution so as to eliminate middlemen.

Two girls from Punjab and one from Madhya Pradesh turned up a day later and said they were being forced to stay in the profession by their "big sisters."

The officers said they would be given police protection and their identity kept secret.

At the end of it all, the officers had to be content with just three converts.

Splendid concert in Alberta

By George W. Lyon

Alberta's first Thyagaraja Festival was celebrated by the South Indian community on May 9 at the Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church in Calgary. Many families from Edmonton, Carstairs and Calgary participated in this highly successful event, which was supported by Calgary's Raga Mala Music Society, Edmonton's Tamil Culture Society, and by a number of gracious patrons.

Thyagaraja, of course, was the great composer and saint of South India.

The event owes much to the initiative of Mrs. Kamala Kumar, an excellent Carnatic singer who lives in Carstairs; she conceived and organized a choir and instrumental ensemble for the Aradhana and singing of Pancha-Ratna Kritis. But many others were affected by Mrs. Kumar's energy and enthusiasm, and credit must be given to Drs. C.G. Balachandran, J.K. Wani and D. Venkatesan, of the Raga Mala Society; and Mr. Nageshwaran of the Edmonton Tamil Culture Society, without whom the Festival could hardly have been a success.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Aradhana, though many people reported to me that Mrs. Kumar's group of sixteen singers, three mridangams and one vina were lovely. The effort involved in coordinating this group must have been considerable. None are professional musicians, and despite the fact that many have had to travel as far as from Edmonton to Calgary, they have been working on this project for many weeks.

After the Aradhana, we were treated to a Carnatic concert, with vocalist V. Ramachandran, ably supported by M.S. Anantharaman, violin; and Trichy S. Sankaran, mridangam. Though the concert got off to a rather slow beginning, with noisy children (and some adults) in the hot, stuffy sanctuary, before long it turned into what may have been my most profound musical experience of recent months.

Mr. Ramachandran ranged through a multitude of moods, from the jovial to the yearning. He has a strong, clear voice, which he has trained fabulously well to be able to make both great swoops and precise, short, rapid notes. He takes great pleasure, not only in his own ability, but in that of his accompanists as well. Halfway through his performance, I was suddenly struck by how earthy and warm Carnatic music really is. That this came as a surprise to me, only demonstrates how completely inaccurate the centuries of Western misunderstanding of Hindu culture have been.

We are led to imagine Hindu mysticism as completely other-worldly, even life-hating. A few performances by singers like Ramachandran would be as effective an antidote to this pernicious nonsense as anyone would ever need.

Mr. Anantharaman was not immediately impressive. His violin echoes of the vocals were always pleasant, but it wasn't until the program was well underway that one realized what a fine instrumentalist he really is. For me, the moment came when his fingers unerringly dived to the top of his fingerboard to nail down just the right high notes. Later, while repeating phrases after Ramachandran, Mr. Anantharaman successfully anticipated the soloist and played a brief phrase in perfect unison with him, absolutely sure of himself, a perfect mind reader. It was exquisite. The ladies in the front row sighed, and so did I.

During different portions of the concert, Anantharaman demonstrated his inventiveness during solos, and he constantly surprised us with his tonal control of the instrument.

What can one say of Trichy Sankaran? A friend of mine, writing of a performance by the stalwart mridangist some few years back, called "...every note... he plays...like fistsfull of dollar bills being handed over to the poor." After a long solo that nearly drained every member of the audience, Dr. Venkatesan rose to call our attention to the fact that Madras University has declared Sankaran the world's top man on his drum, something that came as a surprise to no one.

Calgary has seen some very fine mridangam performances in recent months, by Umayalpurum K. Sivaram from India, as well as by local maestro, C.G. Balachandran, but Sankaran set a local standard which will be both a template and a goal for performances on the drum for years to come.

In addition to his inventiveness and unbelievable rhythmic energy, Sankaran has the largest mridangam vocabulary I've ever heard. He has tones at his command that range from the pastiest of THUDS to the most bell-like PINGS.

The highest praise that one can offer any musician or group, that they made the audience feel glad to be human, go to V. Ramachandran, M.S. Anantharaman, and Trichy S. Sankaran. In the words of American folk-singer, Pete Seeger, "we never wanted it to stop."

UAE INDUSTRIALISTS SEEK MORE CONCESSIONS

New Delhi, [UNI] - Industrialists in the United Arab Emirates want India to offer more concessions for projects in order to step up economic cooperation between the two countries.

They have expressed their willingness to invest in industrial projects in India.

Human Rights group recognized

McMaster Faculty of Business Professor Harish C. Jain is chairman of the police training subcommittee of the Human Rights Organization of Hamilton and Region, a body which is working closely with the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police in overcoming problems of race relations affecting, particularly, the East Indian community of Hamilton-Wentworth. Dr. Jain has accepted an award on behalf of the Human Rights Organization (HRO) given by the regional Police in recognition of his and the committee's work in these matters.

Dr. Jain, a recognized authority in the field of human rights, and the police training subcommittee, with the cooperation of the police, have organized three projects for assisting in the training of officers in police-ethnic relations. These are: a workshop for Southeast Asian variety store owners in the Hamilton area; training of police officers in racial and ethnic relations; and a workshop for members of Human Rights Organization community groups on police-ethnic relations.

The first of these has already taken place. This was in the form of a role-playing session before merchants, police representatives and HRO members, in which a field training officer and a Canadian East Indian enacted a fictional situation. The officer, Constable Peter Payne, employed communication skills to enable the gathered merchants to understand a street policeman's problems. Constable Payne included his own son in the demonstration, and had held rehearsal sessions at his own home along with Ashok Kumar, making the workshop rehearsals part of his family life. The session itself was videotaped and the tape may be used in police training classes.

Two racial incidents were simulated between Mr. Kumar and Constable Payne. These involved a variety store owner who, in the first simulated incident, had had the front window of his business smashed by vandals. The owner, an East Indian, alleged that this was a racial incident. In the second incident, an East Indian merchant had trouble inside his store with an unwanted teenaged customer who called him names and made racial slurs. These simulations were also videotaped.

The second project will take place this fall and will concentrate upon police training in racially-tense situations. About 20 Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police recruits will be selected at random and will be trained with special emphasis on East Indian Canadians. The curriculum is still being planned by the Human Rights Organization Police Training Committee under Dr. Jain, using the variety store workshop experience as a basis. Efforts will be made to sensitize the trainees towards problems faced by visible minorities in Canada in the Hamilton-Wentworth region in particular.

The police training membership includes representatives of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional police and the Human Rights Organization. A consulting firm, Jackson-Smith Associates, Toronto, which has worked with other police departments, was retained by the HRO with the help of a grant from the federal Department of the Secretary of State.

The Human Rights Organization of Hamilton and Region have representation from several organizations, including the India-Canada Society, Sikh Sangat, Hindu Samaj, Muslim Association and the Pakistan Association, and has support and involvement from the United Church of Canada, as well as the government bodies.

They were elected

Indo-Canadian Sikh Association, Prince Rupert, B.C.

President:
Vice-President:
Secretary:
Asst. Secretary:
Treasurer:
Asst. Treasurer:
Directors:

Civic Affairs Chairman:
Building Committee Chairman:
Ladies Auxiliary Incharge:

Children's Auxiliary Incharge:

Harchand Singh Uppal
Jarnail Singh Duley
Surjit Singh Kambo
Jagtar Singh Sangha
Rajwant Singh Kambo
Jasminder Singh Gill
Harbhajan Singh Bhamrah
Sohan Singh Chahal
Harbhajan Singh Snagha
Dave Jatana
Karnail Singh

Bibi Naranjan Kaur Thandi
Jaspal Singh Kambo

President: **Harchand Singh Uppal**
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Ladies Auxiliary Incharge: **Bibi Naranjan Kaur Thandi**
Children's Auxiliary Incharge: **Jaspal Singh Kambo**

Contact: Jagtar Singh Sangha Office 624-2171 (Local 265); Home 624-3948

Concern over Pak build-up

New Delhi, [UNI] - The Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, warned of the major danger that the country may be plunged into a war, without anybody wanting it.

Even though India did not have the resources for meeting the situation that was developing, all the same the country had to be prepared for any eventuality, she said.

Mrs. Gandhi made these observations at the Consultative Committee meeting for the Departments of Atomic Energy, Space, Science and Technology, Electronics and Environment.

She said there was no question of India trying to compete with Pakistan in an arms race. India had never complained as to why Pakistan was being armed. "Our only worry was that such arms supply is creating a situation where everybody was drifting towards a war."

It was officially stated that on nuclear capability of Pakistan reference was made to reports which indicated that Pakistan might go in for a nuclear explosion any time between July and September next year.

Experts feel that the explosion site might be near the Rann of Kutch, the Rajasthan border of Baluchistan. The nature of explosion might be fission.

Film sta

Bombay, [UNI] - Relatives, friends and thousands of admirers bade a tearful farewell to Nargis, the first lady of the Indian screen, who died at the Breach Candy Hospital on May 3 here.

Nargis was 52.

Nargis and Sun

The body of Mrs Nargis Dutt, who was also a nominated Member of Parliament, was laid to rest beside the grave of her mother, singer and filmmaker Jaddan Bai, according to Islamic rites at the Sonapur cemetery here.

Nargis breathed her last with her hands held tight by husband Sunil Dutt, who had reached the hospital just a few minutes before, after receiving a telephone call from the doctors. According to O.P. Ralhan, a film producer, who happened to be at the hospital, Mrs. Dutt was not conscious when the end came.

Film star Nargis passes away

Bombay, [UNI]
Relatives, friends and thousands of admirers bade a tearful farewell to Nargis, the first lady of the Indian screen, who died at the Breach Candy Hospital on May 3 here.

Nargis was 58.

The scene at the residence, when the ambulance carrying Nargis' body left for the cemetry, was heartbreaking. The female members of the family wailed and her brothers Akhtar and Anwar could hardly control themselves.

Nargis and Sunil Dutt

The body of Mrs Nargis Dutt, who was also a nominated Member of Parliament, was laid to rest beside the grave of her mother, singer and filmmaker Jaddan Bai, according to Islamic rites at the Sonapur cemetery here.

Nargis breathed her last with her hands held tight by husband Sunil Dutt, who had reached the hospital just a few minutes before, after receiving a telephone call from the doctors.

According to O.P. Ralhan, a film producer, who happened to be at the hospital, Mrs. Dutt was not conscious when the end came.

Nargis' last journey started after the rites of different religions were performed. Kumkum (vermillion) was applied on the forehead as per Hindu custom. Then Muslim rites were performed.

Scores of film personalities came to pay homage. They included Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, Rajesh Khanna, Shammi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Raj Babbar, Dara Singh, Pran, Om Prakash, actresses Saira Banu, Sadhana Smita Patil, Nanda, Tanuja, Jaya Bhaduri, Simi, Old-timer Suraiya was also there as were Hrishikesh Mukherjee, K.A. Abbas, R. Kardar, G.P. Sippy, Subodh Mukherjee, music directors Naushad, R.D. Burman and Bhappi Lahiri and lyricist Anand Bakshi.

She is survived by her actor-director husband Sunil Dutt, two daughters, and a son, Sanjay, whose debutant film Rocky is scheduled to be released later this week.

Nargis who was in a New York hospital for a considerable time had been in indifferent health ever since her return here.

She started her career as a child artist and rose to become a top star. She was awarded "Padma Shri" for her role in "Mother India".

As a leading lady her first film was Taqdeer, produced by Mehboob Khan in 1944. Her role as heroine in 'Barsaat', produced by co-star Raj Kapoor, and Andaz, was universally acknowledged. Some of her famous films were: Jogan, Aas, Mother India, Chori Chori, Anhoni, Deedar and Miss India.

She became a household name in the Soviet Union after the release of "Awara" there in 1954.

She was awarded the best actress award for her role in Mother India at the international film festival at Karlovi-Vary in Czechoslovakia in 1958. She also won many filmfare awards. She was awarded Urvashi award for her last film, Raat Aur Din, in 1971.

Her marriage to Sunil Dutt in 1957 followed an interesting incident that took place while shooting for "Mother India". While enacting a scene, her clothes caught fire. Sunil Dutt, who played the role of her son in this film, rushed to her rescue and saved her.

She preferred to devote full time to her new role as a housewife but not before she completed all her commitments.

Nargis [Mrs. Sunil Dutt] accepting the Best Actress Award for her role in RAAT AUR DIN. Urvashi Award from the then President Dr. Zakir Hussain.

Courses in cinema

New Delhi, [UNI] - Indian film makers, writers and journalists have suggested introduction of courses in cinema at school and university levels for better understanding and proper appreciation of the medium.

In a seminar on "Cinema and the Press", held here, the speakers expressed concern over the scant respect showed to film journalists and suggested various measures to give them a status so that they could perform their duties in a better manner.

Film maker Kumar Shahani, in a paper presented at the seminar, said "one cannot but be in sympathy with a large majority of journalists who are engaged in a struggle for survival against a growing attack on values by a social class which has patently failed to achieve its profane goals".

Mr. Shahani said there were instances where film writers had to face ignorant editors who often refused their articles for not conforming to commercial needs. He was critical of the modern trend where young writers churned out articles with emphasis only on racy style without having any perception of the films and the medium.

FILMS

DARSHAK

AAKALER SANDHANE
[Bengali]

Direction and screenplay by Mrinal Sen
Produced by Dhiresh Chakraborty

Aakaler Sandhane is a film within a film which creates the conflict between illusion and reality. The people and the settings are real and so are the emotions though these are felt after the 'illusion' of the past is recalled. The film medium is in itself an illusion. This is one level of the working of **Aakaler Sandhane** ("In Search of Famine").

The other level is the bitter experience of a film crew which has gone to a Bengal village to film the 1943 famine in Bengal. The crew reaches the village and is billeted in an old castle-like building which is a reminder of the feudal times. They live an almost corporate life, roam about the building, discuss the scripts, locations, placement of the cameras, etc. They live a double life-one, when acting, the other, when not acting. Smita Patil, an actress in her own right, has to play the role of a famine-stricken woman fleeing the village along with many others. The village folk crowd round the film unit whenever they shoot a scene. For some spectators, shooting of the famine conditions is a horrible experience. A village woman is horrified by the vision of what the film crew is shooting - her own miserable life is no different from that of the film's leading lady condition verging on starvation. She is visibly moved, guessing what the future would be like as she watches a scene being shot.

The director of the film within the film is misunderstood when he approaches a village woman to play the role of a prostitute (his own actress has refused to do the role and left for the city in a hush-hush affair). A village clairvoyant adds his own doubts in the minds of the film-makers. All this amounts to a bizarre, situation, confusion and conflict. Famine-seekers turn into famine-creators. The villagers become hostile. The camera unit packs up and leaves the village.

The structure of the film is patterned after Pirandello's play **Six Characters in Search of an Author**. Many films with a similar structure - a film crew filming a certain situation, happening or character - have been made. The last one we saw was at the time of the 1977 International Film Festival of India, Francois Truffaut's **Day For Night** which was about the problems and put-on jobs of the film-makers.

Aakaler Sandhane was awarded the Best Feature Film Award in the 28th National Film Festival (1981). The citation for it read, for "brilliantly re-creating the tragedy of the 1943 Bengal famine and focussing on the disturbing continuity of the conditions which created it, for the cinematic excellence of the film which explored human experience at different levels and for the consummate artistry with which the complexity of the socio-economic situation is fused into a poignant statement."
There is everything else in the film except "the cinematic excellence."

The film also won for its director, Mrinal Sen, who has gathered many awards earlier starting with **Bhuvan Shome** (1970), the Best Direction award. The citation read: for exploring the inevitable conflict between urban and rural cultures, for displaying in almost every sequence masterly handling and complete command over the medium." It is taken for granted that the Best Feature Film should also get the Best Direction award. So far the policy of the National Film Awards' juries has been to diversify the awards and encourage young film-makers. The structure of the film is not so complex as the Jury thought. Many will disagree with the director's "masterly handling and complete command over the medium." At least in one shot the zoom lens (focused on Smita Patil) is not allowed to complete its full forward movement rather the shot is cut midway. This goes against the very technique of zoom lens application.

Mrinal Sen also won the Best screenplay award for scripting **Aakaler Sandhane**. There were many films with better screenplays than that of **Aakaler Sandhane** in the National Film Festival this year. We cite only two: **Aakrosh** (directed by Govind Nihalani which shared the Golden Peacock with a Romanian film, at the eighth International Film Festival of India, last January) and **Oppol** (the Malayalam film directed by K S Sethumadhavan which was declared the Second Best Feature film of the year). The screenplays for both the films are original, without precedent, and the themes of the two films are more valid and important in the present-day socio-economic structure than that of **Aakaler Sandhane**.

If social relevance is the first consideration, for judging a film, as Mr. V. Shantaram, Chairman of the 28th National Film Festival declared at a Press conference last month, then **Aakaler Sandhane** should have been rejected outright.

Mr. Shantaram opined that as **Aakrosh** has box-office considerations, it was not considered for the top awards. The lone song-dance sequence in **Aakrosh** is very essential for establishing the character of the killer of a young tribal, as also to show that the killer was not alone, he had his henchmen too. Of course, there is a bedroom sequence showing a couple making love. But that could also be explained as showing the attachment of the couple. And the sequence is not vulgar.

Variety show in Calgary

By George W. Lyon

On Sunday, April 19, 1981, the India Canada Association of Calgary presented its 11th Annual Variety Show in the Jubilee Auditorium. Member Societies of the Association include the Bengali Cultural Association, Gujarati Mandal, Hindu Society, India Students' Association, Indo-Canadian Artists' Association, Musicians Guild of Alberta, Raga Mala Music Society and the Singh Society.

Performance offerings ranged from classical music (in both Carnatic and Hindustani forms). Paul Duggal, the Master of Ceremonies, did a fine job of leading the audience through a long and diverse program. One's only complaint during the evening was not to be directed toward the stage, but to a few noisy audience members. It seems that some new Canadians are learning the worst habits of North Americans: Too many rock concerts, perhaps.

The program commenced with a Dance of Joy by three delightful young ladies, students of Srinivas (Chini) Doraiswamy. Chini himself was not to be seen during this charming number, but his presence was felt. Indeed, he seemed to be ubiquitous throughout the evening -- showing up here to play, there to oversee his students' work; undoubtedly, he was constantly active backstage as well.

Dolan Dutta and Ratna Bose, along with Kaberi Bhattacharji and Kumkum Acharya, two duos, offered Bengali folk dances during both halves of the evening. These dances came from the mystical Bauls and from ordinary fisher folk, all performed with great vitality.

Tejashree Bhatt, who must be Doraiswamy's star pupil at age ten, gave her usual delightful, spirited performance of Bharat Natyam. She is becoming very much a local favorite. Some newcomers to Calgary, the Balachandran family, gave a mridangam recital that was an unquestionable highpoint of the evening. After a vocal introduction by Mrs. Balachandran, father Balu put his teenage son through some tough paces, and the two ended with a fast, exciting climax.

Five attractive young ladies gave an interpretation of a village dance, followed by a larger group with folk dances from Gujarat. The latter group, who also returned after the interval, were particularly pleasing, since they managed to capture a pleasing repetitiveness which is the core of most true folk art.

The first half ended with a brief raga on sitar by young Seema Ganatra. Seema, who has studied under Afzal Hanid, Ali Akbar Khan and Ashish Khan, will certainly make her mark in classical music one day.

After the intermission, we were treated to more Bengali dances and then to a Punjabi folk dance by Miss Kohli, which was both ethereal and romantic.

Another teenager, Parmela Atariwala, played a Canzonetta, by an unnamed Italian composer, upon the violin. Though conditions were not ideal for this performance, she showed genuine sensitivity to the music. She was followed by Razieh Riaz, who danced in a semi-classical vein, delightful and erotic enough to fog up the glasses of even a happily married music critic! She was followed by Afzal Hanid's intricate sitar work. Hanid was accompanied by Chini Doraiswamy, on both tabla and dholak. No, he doesn't have four hands. He began with the dholak, which he cradled in his lap, and gradually shifted, first left hand to bayan, then right hand to tabla.

Wisely, the evening's showstopper was held to last, a Punjabi dance by the Indo-Canadian Artists' Association of Alberta. The entry by the troupe's dholak drummer was the most magnificent moment I've seen on stage for quite a while. As he slowly stalked across the wide Jubilee stage, rattling both ends of the dholak with heavy and light sticks, he held the crowd in the palm of his hand, and he knew it. Though the dance itself was energetically, professionally performed, it was nearly anticlimatic after such a powerful opening.

Asian competition unwelcome

Nairobi, [UNI] - Despite simmering discontent among Kenyan Legislators against Asian and White dominance of the economy, it seems clear from the current proceedings of the Parliament here that the Daniel Arap Moi Government will not adopt or encourage Idi-Amin style racist attitudes to solve its social and economic problems.

Commerce Minister Eliud Mwamunga told the Second Session of the Nyayo Parliament which has been in progress since March 10, in unmistakable terms that Kenyans of non-African origin were citizens of the country and as such there were no laws to prevent them from doing business in Kenya. He however, added that stringent measures were being taken by his Ministry against dishonest businessmen of Non-African origin.

Mr. Mwamunga also advanced statistics to assuage the feelings of the African Legislators. He said there were 75,000 traders of African origin against 23,000 of Non-African origin in Kenya. Of the Non-African origin traders, 900 were in manufacturing goods trade and the remaining were engaged in other specialised fields.

Mr. Justus Ole Tipis, an Assistant Minister in the Office of President Moi, has gone on record as saying that Kenyans of Asian, Arab and European origin were free to join the Armed Forces and pointed out that some had already done so.

Gujarati school annual in Ottawa

All the 55 children of Gujarati Language Classess of Ottawa received framed diplomas at the end of a very successful annual program for the year 1980-1981. The "Graduation" was attened by about 300 parents, grandparents and friends. The guest of honour was Dr. M. Sahasrabudhe, who also said a few words in Gujarati.

The occasion was also graced by His Excellency, Dr. G.S. Dhillon, and Mrs. Dhillon.

As in previous years, there were interesting items by Mukul, Punjabi School and Renuka Sahay's Dance School. Besides Garba a historical play from Mahabharata, Gujarati language classes had three most interesting items. They were Ragas, Lazeem and Bumbbells.

The program began with a short history about the Gujarati language classes by Jayvadan Bhatt.

This very successful function is a clear indication of the enthusiasm of the students and parents and the dedication of the teachers.

The next session of Gujarati Language Classes will commence in September, 1981 with classes every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For further information please call 226-5154 or 731-7154.

Chandra Acharya.

Token coins puzzle collectors

New Delhi, [UNI] - Two Indian paper coins of early 20th century have foxed experts of three countries -- India, Britain and the US.

The two coins made of cardboard and dating back to 1911 and 1919 are now in the possession of a Delhi resident whose mother found them in a box belonging to her late husband. Since the coins have surfaced, they have been termed a 'great mystery' by various agencies.

What Indian Government experts and their counterparts in Britain could not explain was how these two 'token coins' issued as legal tender in India, came to be printed in Germany.

Film make

New Delhi, [UNI]- Students at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), the only institute in the country that caters to the needs of young and independent film-makers, have been producing short and feature films over the years that has given the institute a status. Most of the films were produced with the help of the Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

In its effort to further exploit their potential, the Films Division is planning to encourage young film-makers and diploma holders of the Institute by commissioning more films.

According to the review prepared by the Films Division, the young film-

Expulsion of demanded

New Delhi, [UNI] - A leader of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India has opposed the posting of George Griffin in the United States embassy here alleging that he is a CIA agent.

Participating in a discussion on the working of Indian External Affairs Ministry recently, veteran Communist Party parliamentarian Bhupesh Gupta, said in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) that Mr. Griffin, an American diplomat, should not be posted in

Concessions

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The recommendations call for ensuring a minimum of 12 per cent return on OPEC loans and investments, exemption of income tax and wealth tax to all Gulf inves-

Assemblin

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In its effort to further exploit their potential, the Films Division is planning to encourage young film-makers and diploma holders of the Institute by commissioning more films.

According to the review prepared by the Films Division, the young film-makers are intelligent, enthusiastic and know their jobs well. During the year, the young film-makers completed seven films and 19 were in various stages of production.

Independent producers were given 33 new assignments during 1980-81, taking the total to 82. While 27 films have already been completed, about 40 more are likely to be ready this year.

In the current year the Films Division plans to produce over 150 films. The production scheme will be so devised that quality is not sacrificed for expediency. At least 50 films are expected to be completed during the first six months.

Last year films division participated in 87 International Film Festivals and received 22 awards.

Expulsion of diplomat demanded

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Participating in a discussion on the working of Indian External Affairs Ministry recently, veteran Communist Party parliamentarian Bhupesh Gupta said in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) that Mr. Griffin, an American diplomat, should not be posted in India. Since Mr. Griffin had already arrived in New Delhi, the Indian Government should ask him to leave immediately in the interest of the country's security.

Mr. Gupta flaunted a copy of "Who's Who in the Central Intelligence Agency" of America to say that Mr. Griffin was in Calcutta, capital of West Bengal State bordering Bangladesh, during the country's liberation struggle in 1971, actively working against it.

Concessions recommended

New Delhi, [UNI] - The Gujarat delegation, led by Sanat Mehta, which toured the Gulf countries in early January this year has made some recommendations including various tax and other concessions to the Gulf investors in India.

The recommendations call for ensuring a minimum of 12 per cent return on OPEC loans and investments, exemption of income tax and wealth tax to all Gulf investors, and total exemption of taxes on investment by way of loans, debentures and shares held by non-resident Indians.

The delegation has also recommended a setting up of a centralised office in the United Arab Emirates by the Indian Industrial Promotional Corporations, granting of permission to UAE banks to open branches in India and clearance of all joint sector ventures with OPEC as in the case of the Kandla Trade Free Zone.

Assembling Jaguars

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The first consignment, consisting of front, centre and rear fuselage assemblies and ground test equipment reached Bangalore on May 11.

But the decision on the question of manufacturing Jaguar aircraft in India is yet to be announced. The initial agreement envisaged purchases of about 45 Jaguars, assembly of about 40 odd Jaguars from components to be manufactured by British Aerospace and the manufacture of more Jaguars in India later. The deal signed by the Janata Government ran into rough weather soon after Mrs. Gandhi's party returned to power last year.

Tapping the Gulf

New Delhi, [UNI] - The Government of the north Indian state of Haryana is considering a proposal to send its Chief Minister abroad including the Gulf countries, to contact the indian residents to mobilise their savings for investments in India.

This follows the Maharashtra State Government's decision recently to send a team headed by the State Finance Minister, Mr. Adik, to the Gulf countries to discuss the scope of investment of petro-dollars in industrial ventures in the state.

While the Maharashtra Government wants to contact the foreign investors in the Gulf countries, the Haryana Government will contact the Indian residents there.

Violin concert in Calgary

By George W. Lyon

A very fine violinist from India, (Dr.) Mrs. N. Rajam, currently on tour in North Amrica, was brought to Calgary for two concerts on May 2 and 3, by the city's Raga Mala Music Society. Since Mrs. Rajam is accomplished in both Hindustani and Carnatic music, it was only fitting that she perform two concerts, one for each idiom.

Mrs. Rajam was raised in Carnatic music, but as a young teenager, she determined to bring the violin into Hindustani tradition. She then spent some 15-16 years studying the Hindustani gayaki vocal styles, and developing her technique in order to reproduce the vocal style on the violin. Her success has been remarkable.

For her Hindustani concert, she was accompanied by her fifteen year old daughter, Sangeeta, who is learning the violin, and by the inimitable tablaist, Zakir Hussein, who has long been (and will long remain) a favorite musician to Calgary audiences.

Sangeeta's prowess is remarkable. She performs with a self assurance that is surprising in such a young musician. She is delightfully alert to her mother's phrasing and can already deliver creditable, though brief, solos. She says that her ambition is to be a musician/scholar like her mother, and she's certainly made an excellent beginning.

The basic tone of the Hindustani program was set by the interaction between Mrs. Rajam and Hussain. Alaps were, at best, perfunctory. Since Mrs. Rajam was in Calgary for so brief a time, they were missed, for something special happens when a first class musician allows herself to take the time for serious introspection.

Still, she made fine use of the tablaist's marvellous rhythm. Mrs. Rajam had an unmistakable twinkle in her eye during much of the evening, as she led Hussain a merry chase through several ragas. I don't believe that she ever actually tricked him, but she definitely gave him a thorough workout.

Although more development of the alaps would have been enjoyable, again, one cannot seriously raise any complaints about this concert, which was held at the University of Calgary. I even found her electronic tamboura unobjectionable, though I must confess I dreaded it beforehand.

The next evening's concert, held at the home of Society President, Dr. J.K. Wani, was devoted to the Carnatic tradition. For this occasion, Mrs. Rajam was accompanied by Calgarian Dr. (Balu) Balachandran but very knowledgeable and thoroughly enthusiastic group, was as different as the two traditions can be.

I found the moods of this evening much more varied, as works of different lengths and styles were offered. During some of the longer offerings, which included some fairly extended alapanas, Mrs. Rajam played with considerable intensity. Of course, she was quite responsive to the mridangam, and the angular rhythms of Carnatic music from both instruments kept most of the bodies in Dr. Wani's living room asway with pleasure.

Calgary certainly has a treasure in Dr. Balachandran. He is fully as complete a musician as any professional drummer. He proved his imagination to be as strong as his metrical sense over and over during the evening.

Which concert was better? Who can say? They were different, and they were both essential. The weekend proved once again how important it is that the Raga Mala Society continue to support both Hindustani and Carnatic music, because there is so much to enjoy in both forms of Indian music. For the present, the audience for Carnatic music is small here, but there is every reason to believe that more music lovers will come to discover it, and that both Indian classical traditions will flourish in Western Canada.

New generation of leaders

Miss Pinky Gautam

Miss Pinky Gautam, 20, of Antigonish was elected Social Secretary of Hindu Sanstha of Nova Scotia. The Social Secretary holds an important position in the organization because the responsibilities include all social aspects of the religious and cultural life of the community. This is the first time that a member of the younger generation brought up and educated exclusively in Canada has been elected to this position in any Hindu organization in Canada.

Miss Gautam recently completed her B. Pharmacy degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax and will be employed at Lawton's Drug Store in Antigonish. She brings to the temple organization a rich background of experience. She was Vice-President of Indo Canadian Association, Halifax (1979-80) and is daughter of the late Dr. M.S. Gautam, of Antigonish, who was the founder-father of the Society.

Other members elected to the executive were S.C. Joshi, (General Secretary), A. L. Anand (Organizing Secretary), V.Nayar (Financial Secretary), P. Hominick (Library Secretary), K.L. Lekhi (Member), Mrs. A. Pandey (Member), Dr. R.D. Verma and Dr. T. Verma (representing New Brunswick and P.E.I., respectively).

Lorry operators strike

Cochin, [UNI] - The cities of the south Indian state of Kerala are virtually without essential commodities. Vegetables and provisions have almost disappeared and prices are skyrocketing.

This is the result of the six-day-old agitation by lorry operators all over the state. They launched the strike as the second stage of their agitation in order to seek a solution to the row between them and the merchants as to who should pay the workers for stacking and unstacking goods. The lorry owners want the merchants to pay the workers but the merchants are not willing to shoulder the responsibility. They say it is the lorry owners who should unload the goods at the destination points.

Floating lights

New Delhi, [UNI] - Floating lights have been installed along the 110 km length of the Salaya offshore oil terminal approach channel in the Gulf of Kutch (West India). This has been done to enable super tankers to discharge their cargo directly.

The Shipping Corporation of India has chartered two large crude carriers as the super tankers could not be deployed on the national oil circuit. No Indian port was deep enough to have them. The Shipping Corporation of India lost over 57 million dollars in this procedure.

The eleven specially designed lights or light bouys in the narrow and restricted channel would now enable the super tankers to come up to the oil terminal. This is a significant achievement, according to International Maritime Standards.

The attempted sabotage and after

By George Mathew

New Delhi: A reported attempt to sabotage Air India Boeing 707 named "Makalu" scheduled to carry India's Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, on a foreign tour had sent, for a moment, a wave of shock throughout the country.

The incident was first announced in the Parliament which was in session. A stunned Lok Sabha heard the Home Minister, Zail Singh, in rapt attention. The members were unanimous in condemning the incident and demanding a full-scale discussion. They expressed the unanimous view that the life of the Prime Minister was above party politics. Some members, including those from the ruling congress(I) demanded the resignation of the Home Minister.

"The attempt to engineer the crash of the Boeing carrying the Prime Minister is a symptom of a general global malise where mindless violence is increasingly used to achieve political and personal ends. So how low have international norms sunk that terrorism in the form of hijackings has almost achieved a veid kind of legitimacy. This cancer cannot be rooted out without a determined and joint effort by nations of all political and idological hues," concluded the Hindustan Times.

The over-anxious, if not over-nervous airlines' officials and the over-zealous politicians, stretched the incident so much out of proportion that the credibility of the report connecting it to an attempt on the life of the Prime Minister became suspect almost instantly. The Airlines' primary concern seemed to be to outwit the other in exposing the "conspiracy" first and escape without blemish. The politicians wanted to go to the farthest possible limit to prove their loyalty to the Prime Minister. They failed to stand and stare at the consequence of a premature announcement of the kind on the nation. The subsequent responsibility to substantiate theory became their secondary consideration.

A thorough investigation did not precede the announcement. The intelligence agency was not deployed to investigate the facts and identify the hands involved and unearth the intentions. Yet the Central Bureau of Investigation which came into the picture subsequently alleged "foreign hand" and "a deep-rooted conspiracy" in the incident making it an international affair.

The Soviet press was quick in picking up broken threads to implicate the CIA into the conspiracy. That provoked a protest "in the strongest terms" from the United States.

As details of the "sabotage" unfolded itself, the concern of the nation turned into contempt. At the time of writing the nation is watching. Who will have the last laugh? It is needless to predict.

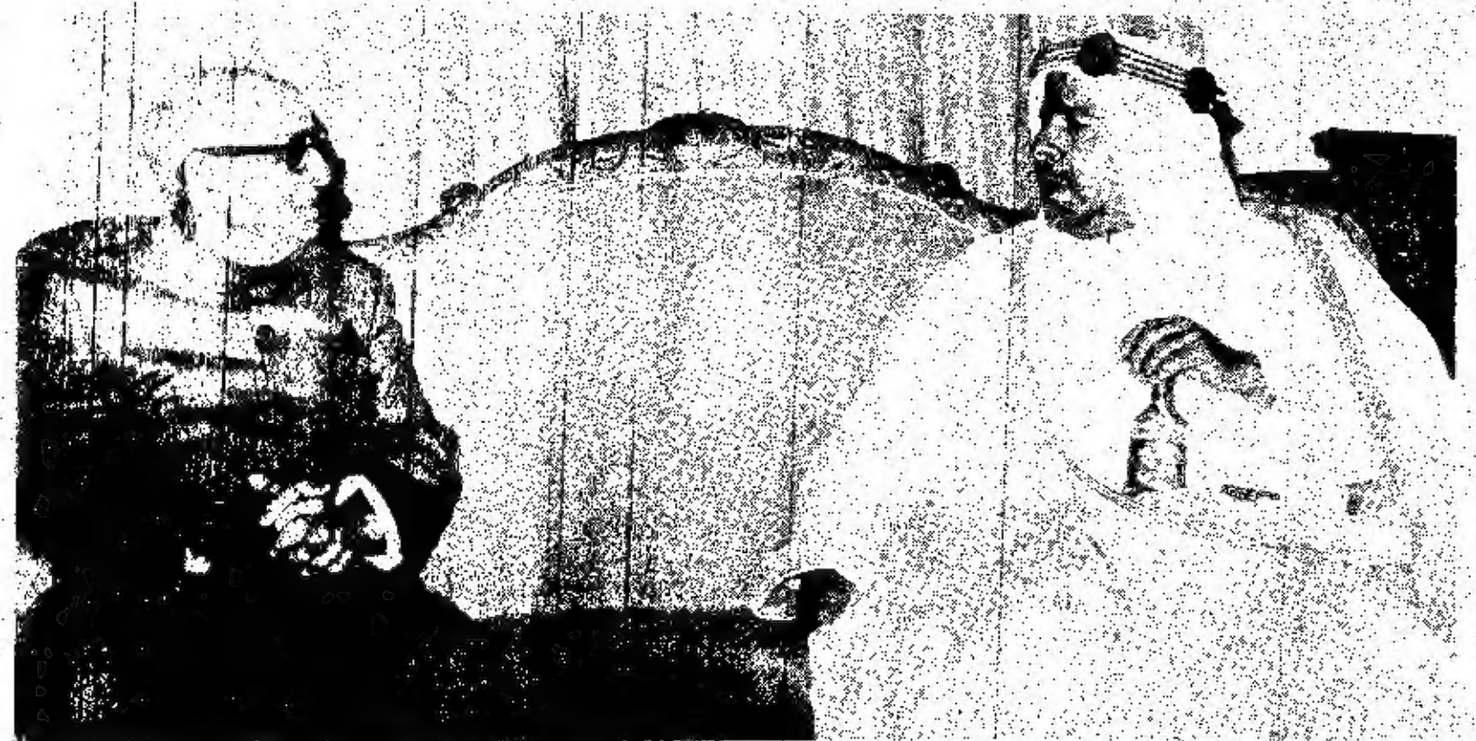
The Lok Sabha witnessed an anti-climax the following day. The Opposition expressed doubt that the dramatization of the sabotage report was aimed at creating conditions for reimposing emergency in the country. They found similarity in the Amethi episode in which an attempt was allegedly made on Mr. Sanjay Gandhi's life during the last elections. A Janata M.P. said later that the report was "a frame up and a fraud."

Zail Singh told the Parliament that the aircraft "Makalu" returned to Bombay from Abu Dhabi on the 15th April 1981. The periodic inspection of category P.III started on the aircraft the same day and two days later it was certified to be satisfactory except for one elevator cable which was found to be slightly frayed.

"The final check-up showed that four vital cable systems, namely those relating to the elevator, rudder, horizontal stabiliser and the rudder trim had been affected and that this could not have been due to normal causes but they were intentionally cut in a manner so as to ordinarily preclude detection," he said and added that preliminary investigation revealed that it was clear case of attempted sabotage.

An official spokesman later briefed the press thus: "The eighty per cent damage to the cables is such that the system would have collapsed after four take-offs. This means that the "Makalu" would have come from Bombay to Delhi safely, picked up Mrs. Gandhi for Geneva, carried her to Kuwait and crashed on the way back to Delhi."

The lacunae in the sabotage theory are numerous. At the time of detecting the damaged cables "Makalu" was not finally selected for the VVIP flight. There were 16 days to go for the PM's foreign tour. After the routine P.III check, the aircraft would have undertaken commercial flights before the VVIP use. Blocking "Makalu" for 16 days would have caused heavy loss to Air India. After the detection of the damaged cables, the aircraft was not cordoned off for detailed inquiry. On April 28, the Home Minister who flew to Bombay for an on the spot study, did not see "Makalu" but saw a similar 707 "Annapurna" instead. As per the usual drill, the aircraft should have undergone a thorough check-up and test-flights three days before VVIP use and another inspection half-an-hour before the flight. All these could have been done by those issued with special security passes and by the best of the technical staff. While the damage to the cables and an "attempted sabotage" were evident, the theory that the same was intended on the life of the Prime Minister is too absurd for even imagination.



The Vice President of India, M. Hidayatullah with Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifer, Amir of Bahrain during his visit to India.

Multicultural drama festival announced

OTTAWA - The 8th annual National Multicultural Theatre Festival will be held July 8-23 in one of Canada's oldest theatres at Georgetown, P.E.I., the Hon. Jim Fleming, Minister of State for Multiculturalism announced today.

Supported by the Government of Canada's Multiculturalism Program, theatre companies from eight provinces will perform at the 83 year-old, 250-seat theatre. Each troupe will perform on two consecutive nights. Groups from eight provinces will take part including British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

The National Multicultural Theatre Association, which is organizing the festival in cooperation with Island Community Theatre Inc. and the national and provincial governments, will simultaneously hold its annual national congress July 10-13 at nearby Brudenell.

Rare manuscript found

Tonk [Rajasthan], [UNI] - Situated on the banks of the Banas River, Tonk is a small town which has gained significance in recent years. It has the privilege of possessing a rare collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts. The manuscripts are rare and treasured; they are not available anywhere else in the world.

Scholars from all over the world, with a leaning towards the Islamic heritage visit this town in the western Indian state of Rajasthan.

In 1979, an Arabic and Persian Research Institute was established to cater to needs of scholars and connoisseurs and to preserve its rich collection.

Basketball championships

New Delhi, [UNI] - Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq are among the 21 countries invited for the 11th Asian Basketball Championships to be held in Calcutta in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal from December 5 to 19.

China and Japan, the runners-up of the last championship, are also taking part in the meet.

The championships, which are held once in two years, enables two top teams from this zone (Asia) to participate in the World Championships or the Olympics. India finished fifth in the last championship held in Magayoma, Japan, in 1979.

Welfare of children sought

New Delhi, [UNI] - Prince Talal Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia admitted that when he initially undertook his "mission" as special envoy to the United Nations Children Emergency Fund in April 1980, he was not acting through a "sense of cause". His concern for the welfare of children all over the world was natural.

Prince Talal, a member of the richest royal family in the world, wants to prove that his family cares for the poor children of the third world countries.

Concluding his two-day visit to India, he told newsmen that he had come to this country to familiarise himself with the UNICEF projects here and to focus the attention of the Indian Government to the urgent needs of the children.

The prince said the Gulf Development Foundation, which supports the development activities of UNICEF and other UN agencies, would give India a big share of the support and contributions for supplementing the efforts of the UN agencies.

Father of eight children, Prince Talal is opposed to any legislation to curb birth rate. Birth control might be necessary in a country like India, but the world had limitless resources which could look after the growing population, he said.

The Prince rounded off his visit with a meeting with the Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi and the President, Sanjiva Reddy.

KITCHEN

By Pranati Sen

While the month of Ju
wedding bells for westerne
to year depending on the
Since I was a June bride a
have decided to give you
anniversary cake recipe. It
have to be a June bride t
There is no flour in this ca

Almond Torte

Torte Layers:
9 large eggs
¼ tsp. salt
1 cup granulated sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
About 8 oz. dry blanched
ground almond
¼ cup packaged dry bread
1 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt

Filling:
1½ cup heavy cream (whip
¾ cup confectioners' suga
1½ tsp. vanilla extract

Frosting:
3 squares unsweetened ch
3 tbsp. butter
2¼ cups confectioners' su
¼ to 1/3 cup hot coffee
1½ tsp. vanilla extract

Garnish:

3 oz. toasted sliced almond

Toast dry nuts in prehe
minutes, stirring often to pr
toasted. Cool at room temp
the food processor, process
Cheese grater or blender
Or buy the ground almond
2½ cups for the cake.
Separate eggs, putting wh
bowl, yolks into a small on
temperature - about 1 hour
bottom of 3, 9 inch round l
waxed paper. With mixer a
¼ tsp. salt until soft peak
raised. Gradually beat in
tbsp. at a time), beating
same beaters, beat yolks u
beat in rest of granulated
minutes; beat in 1 tsp. va
Combine 2½ cups grou
powder, and salt; turn int
scraper, mix well; with un
whites just to combine.
pans, smoothing surfaces
surface springs back when
To cool hang each pan upsi
1 hour.

Make filling:

In medium bowl, combine
ers' sugar and 1½ tsp. va
refrigerate.

Frosting:

In top of double boiler,
with ¼ cup hot coffee. A
from heat, mix in sugar,
more coffee if needed.

Loosen sides of cake l
Turn out of pans, peel off
to make 6 layers in all.
assemble layers with
Repeat with remaining
pastry bag with numbe
sides and top of cake w
Pipe the remaining ch
decorative border arou
Sprinkle top with toaste
Refrigerate 4 hours

Saudi con

New Delhi, [UNI] -
contracts division of
bay Suburban Electric
ply has been given a
tract by the Royal Com
sion of Jubail and Yanb
34.5 KN distribution sy
at Al-Jubail in Saudi
bia.
The work involves s
and installation of 300

KITCHEN KORNER

By Pranati SenGupta

While the month of June has been associated with wedding bells for westerners, in India it varies from year to year depending on the date of the Indian calendar. Since I was a June bride and a few of my friends too, I have decided to give you my very own special Almond anniversary cake recipe. It tastes so good that you don't have to be a June bride to bake this wonderful cake. There is no flour in this cake recipe.

Almond Torte

Torte Layers:
7 large eggs
¼ tsp. salt
1 cup granulated sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
About 8 oz. dry blanched whole almonds or 2½ cups ground almond
¼ cup packaged dry bread crumbs
½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt

Filling:
1½ cup heavy cream (whipping cream), chilled
¾ cup confectioners' sugar
1½ tsp. vanilla extract

Frosting:
3 squares unsweetened chocolate
3 tbsp. butter
2¼ cups confectioners' sugar
⅓ to 1/3 cup hot coffee
1¼ tsp. vanilla extract

Garnish

2 oz. toasted sliced almonds

Toast dry nuts in preheated 350F. oven for 8 to 10 minutes, stirring often to prevent burning, or until lightly toasted. Cool at room temperature. Using steel blade in the food processor, process toasted almond until ground. Cheese grater or blender may be used to grind the nuts. Or buy the ground almonds in a package and measure 2½ cups for the cake.

Separate eggs, putting whites into a large electric-mixer bowl, yolks into a small one. Let whites warm to room temperature - about 1 hour. Preheat oven to 375F. Line bottom of 3, 9 inch round layer-cake pans with circles of waxed paper. With mixer at high speed, beat whites with ¼ tsp. salt until soft peaks form when beater is slowly raised. Gradually beat in ½ cup granulated sugar (2 tbsp. at a time), beating until stiff peaks form. With same beaters, beat yolks until thick and light. Gradually beat in rest of granulated sugar, beating until thick - 5 minutes ; beat in 1 tsp. vanilla.

Combine 2½ cups ground almonds, crumbs, baking powder, and salt; turn into yolk mixture. With rubber scraper, mix well; with under-and-over motion, fold into whites just to combine. Divide evenly into prepared pans, smoothing surfaces. Bake 20 minutes, or until surface springs back when gently pressed with fingertip. To cool hang each pan upside down between 2 other pans - 1 hour.

Make filling:

In medium bowl, combine the cream, ¾ cup confectioners' sugar and 1½ tsp. vanilla extract. Beat until stiff, refrigerate.

Frosting:

In top of double boiler, over hot water, melt chocolate with ½ cup hot coffee. Add butter and mix well. Remove from heat, mix in sugar, vanilla until smooth. Add a little more coffee if needed.

Loosen sides of cake layers from pans with spatula. Turn out of pans, peel off paper. Slice each cake into two, to make 5 layers in all. On cake stand or cake plate, assemble layers with 1/5 of filling between layers. Repeat with remaining layers. Put ½ cup frosting in pastry bag with number 2 star tip, refrigerate. Frost sides and top of cake with chocolate frosting.

Pipe the remaining chocolate frosting in the bag in a decorative border around top and bottom of cake. Sprinkle top with toasted sliced almonds.

Refrigerate 4 hours before serving. Serves 12.

Saudi contract for India

New Delhi, [UNI] - The contracts division of Bombay Suburban Electric Supply has been given a contract by the Royal Commission of Jubail and Yanbu for 34.5 KN distribution system at Al-Jubail in Saudi Arabia.

The work involves supply and installation of 500 kilometres of 34.5 KV single core cross-linked polyethylene cables in ducts together with associated switchgear.

The contract valued at Rs 150 million is to be completed within 30 months.

A tribal role for postitutes

Indore, [UNI] - The Banchhada tribe of Madhya Pradesh (Central India) are tradition-bound. At least one woman in a family takes to the world's oldest profession, prostitution. And she does not suffer any handicap, stigma or ostracism, except that she has to forfeit her right to marry.

The prostitutes are called "Khelawanee" in their dialect and many of the sprawling huts the Banchhadas live in have each a separate room for them. The room has a special exit, for use in case of emergency or police raids. The room is sparcely furnished with only a cot and a water container.

A random survey by a UNI correspondent has shown that there are as many as 1,500 khelawanees aged between 18 and 30 who have joined the profession. The community lives mainly in the Mandasor and Ratlam districts of Western Madhya Pradesh. The huts are generally built on the roadside on the outskirts of various towns and villages. The khelawanees depend mostly on stray customers like truck drivers but some have rich patrons who have settled monthly allowances on them. But even they have queer customs. No khelawanee can consort with a member of her own community. A breach of this may cost the woman her life.

Leela, 20, is a comely khelawnee, and her customers give her gifts. "Now and then someone, a trader or a politician, comes here from the city and lives with me for several days, drinking liquor and eating chicken. They are rich people and bring rich gifts," she said.

Nagin, another khelawanee told UNI that she had two daughters and both of them were engaged already. But she has no intention to lead her daughters into this profession.

Many of the khelawanees have earned enough to buy lands and settle down to a carefree life.

Jaina, 50, said the initiation of a girl into the profession was a social event. The first customer has to give clothes to the girl and drinks and meat to her family. On such occasions, people come from town as far off as Indore and Ujjain and even from distant Delhi and Bombay.

But many elderly Banchhadas seem worried about the future of their community. Times are changing and the profession is losing the respect it once commanded. According to the elders, the danger the khelawanees are facing is from the police. "But policemen are also human beings with human foibles", quipped one.

Gulf money boom in Andhra

New Delhi, [UNI] - Money flowing in from the Gulf countries to the South Indian State of Hyderabad, while leading to a general construction boom, has generated a demand to do away with existing encumberances on building and housing activities to facilitate more constructions.

Landlords, hitherto under the purview of the Rent Control Act, are demanding that these restrictions be waived and that they should be exempted from the provisions of the Act. However, the Deputy Secretary to Government and Accommodation Controller, Manikyam Pillai, while voicing concern at the problems of urban housing, has ruled out the possibility of doing away with all restrictions on building activities.

Nonaligned science centre

New Delhi, [UNI] - A centre for science and technology for nonaligned countries will be established in India this year.

The proposal for such a centre had been under consideration for some years. The Colombo Nonaligned Summit approved the setting up of this centre at Lima in Peru. But when Peru expressed its inability to open the centre, India stepped in.

The centre will promote joint research in selected fields and transfer of technology among developing countries. It aims at strengthening the concept of collective self-reliance through technical cooperation among the nonaligned countries. The centre is also expected to function as a clearing house information regarding technical capabilities of nonaligned countries.

Investment in hotels from abroad

New Delhi, [UNI] - Indian entrepreneurs building hotels for the 9th Asian Games scheduled for November 1982 would be allowed to raise petrodollars and might even be able to get equity capital from the Gulf countries.

The Union Minister for State for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Chandulal Chandrakar, told a member of Parliament that foreign collaboration was allowed to help in marketing. Those seeking hotel construction were facing difficulty in raising resources, and also there was a need to add to the present number of hotels. As many as 3,570 rooms and ten hotels were required for the Asiad. The Industrial Finance Corporation was helping the hotels to raise resources to the extent of 25 per cent, he said.

Bangladesh reshuffle

Dacca, (UNI) - President Ziaur Rahman has reshuffled his Cabinet, sacking one minister and three state ministers and appointing one new minister and three state ministers.

The President appointed Prof. Yusouf Ali, a former Education Minister in the Mujib Government and former General Secretary of Awami League (Mizan), as Textiles Minister. Prof. Yusouf Ali replaced Mr. Mansur Ali, an M.P. from the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

The newly-appointed State Ministers are: Mr. Jamiruddin Sircar, M.P. Abdus Salam Talukder, M.P., and Syed Mohibul Hasan, M.P. The state ministers who have been sacked earlier this week are: Atauddin Khan, Abdul Mannan Sikder and Dr Faridul Huda.

Radiation hazards

Bombay, [UNI] - Nuclear experts have warned that the radioactive content of coal poses a health hazard and it merits regular monitoring of the environment of the coal-fired stations for checking levels of radioactivity.

These warnings were the result of the assessment of the papers presented at a recent symposium of Natural Radiations Environment organised by the Department of Atomic Energy here.

Several experts from India, Italy, Yugoslavia and Belgium said that radiation danger from burning of coal more particularly the movement of fly ash was quite significant.

Australians protest

New Delhi, [UNI] - Even as the students of Aligarh Muslim University threatened to launch the second phase of their agitation to demand the suspension of Professor Irfan Habib of the University for what they termed 'derogatory' remarks in a newspaper interview, scholars of Australian and New Zealand Universities have expressed 'grave concern' at the harassment to which Irfan Habib is being subjected.

In a letter addressed to AMU Vice-Chancellor, the foreign scholars, teachers and writers have said "while we do not wish to interfere in matters internal to your universities, we should like to urge that Prof. Habib be allowed to continue his outstanding work." They have said that they regard Prof. Habib's work "as of vital importance to the study of the history and society of the Indian sub-continent and praised his commitment to the highest ideals or academic integrity, intellectual excellence and social justice".

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Correspondence invited from doctors, chartered accountants or engineers for a Khatri girl, Canadian citizen, 22, systems analyst, very fair complexioned. Family well settled in Ontario. Please reply with recent photo and particulars to M-1791, The Canadian India Times.

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Matrimonial correspondence invited from an intelligent, outgoing, sports-minded, smart Punjabi girl, immigrant or Canadian citizen, at least 5'-5" or taller, 26-32 years, single or divorced for a divorced Punjabi gentleman, 34, 5'-11", machinist, Canadian citizen, owns a home, settled in Canada for 10 years. Girl's merits only consideration. Write in own handwriting with photo to M-1777, The Canadian India Times.

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A well settled doctor wants suitable match for his niece, 24, B.Ed., 5'-5" and very pretty. Presently she is in Montreal for a visit. U.S./Canadian immigrants need apply. Boy's merits main consideration. Please contact Dr. Dewan, 9017 Airlie, LaSalle, Quebec or Tel. 659-3103.

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Canadian wins British award on Indian book

A Canadian has won a British literary award for her first book an epic historical novel set in mid-Victorian India.

Valery Fitzgerald of Ottawa won the $5,700 prize, which is presented annually in memory of writer Georgette Heyer by publishers Bodley Head Limited, Corgi Books and the Heyer estate.

Mrs. Fitzgerald spent five years researching and writing the novel, which is provisionally entitled Zemindar and deals with a young English woman who participated in the siege of Lucknow during the Indian mutiny of 1857.

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Human rights charter supported

A group representing about 17 ethnic groups was in Ottawa in March to present Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau with a petition signed by more than 30,000 people who support the inclusion of a charter of human rights in the proposed new constitution.

The petition was presented by Jerry Rose of Toronto, vice-chairman of the National Committee for a Human Rights Charter. A Parliament Hill reception, designed to demonstrate ethnic support for the charter, was organized by Roland de Corneille, Liberal M.P. for Toronto's Eglington-Lawrence riding.

Mr. Trudeau credited ethnic groups with having brought about many improvements in the human rights charter through their testimony before Parliament's Constitution Committee.

Ethnic studies conference in Fall

The Canadian Ethnic Studies National Conference will be held this year on October 13, 16, 17 at the Edmonton Plaza Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta. A wide range of topics related to this year's theme "Ethnicity and A New Canada", will be considered such as: ethnicity as a factor in a national transformation; demystifying minority groups; and theoretical issues in ethnic studies. Sessions will be in the form of paper presentations, panel sessions and symposia. Papers presented may be considered for publication as in previous years. Conference Committee Chairman is Ted Aoki, Department of Secondary Education, University of Alberta.

Coming events

Ottawa. A cultural variety entertainment programme will be held under the auspices of the Ottawa chapter of the Volunteers in Service to Education in India (VSEI) on June 13 at 2 p.m. in the Ottawa public library auditorium, 20 Metcalfe (at Laurier). Contributions to this programme will help support educational projects for women and children in India. For further information please call 521-5791 or 232-8421.

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